

# Spectrum



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary D. Jones

**USNS Comfort anchored off the coast of Charleston, S.C., participated in Global Medic 2008, a joint services medical training exercise. Over 400 Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors from units around the country joined the Comfort's full time crew of about 50 active duty Sailors and Military Sealift Command civilian mariners. Every section of the ship's crew was augmented by reserve members that boarded in Baltimore, Md.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samuel McLarty

**Sailors on board the USNS Comfort rehearse fire fighting techniques during exercise Global Medic.**

## Medicine goes global

*Global Medic News Service*

Joint medical training surged "full speed ahead" when the United States Navy Ship Comfort joined more than 30 Army and Air Force units participating in Global Medic 2008.

The USNS Comfort, one of two Navy hospital ships operated by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, dropped anchor about 15 miles off the Charleston, S.C., coast June 11. Their role in the exercise is a treatment facility for simulated combat casualties.

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mented by reserve members that boarded in Baltimore, Md.

"When the crew came on board I said to them, you may not be accustomed to being on a ship, but you are our crew," said Navy Capt. Bruce Boynton, commander, Comfort's medical treatment facility.

Despite coming from different services, Boynton said the crew meshed quickly.

"Even though you are working with a pick up crew, because you're working with medical professionals who know their role, you can make a well functioning team in no time at all," said Boynton.

"In the medical field, we are conducting more joint missions than any other time in our nation's history," said Master

Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Ken Day. "The multi-service scenarios we are given enable us to work together using less manpower which reduces the impact on each service."

"When you are out there working with patients they see a medical provider. It is not an Army, Navy or Air Force person they see. A doctor is a doctor and a medic is a medic," said Day.

The USNS Comfort has 500 minimal care beds and 400 intermediate beds, as well as 80 intensive care beds. There are 12 operating rooms and the casualty reception area can intake and triage up to 50 patients at a time. The ship is designed to comfortably accept up to 300 surgical patients in any single day.



Photo by Pfc. Darryl Montgomery

**(From left to right) Capt. Julie Hillstrom, 909th Forward Surgical Team, and Maj. John Provenzano, commander, 909th FTS, discuss what needs to be done in order to get the patient ready for evacuation to the 256th Combat Support Hospital during Global Medic 2008, Fort Gordon, Ga.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Slaughter

**Medical personnel remove a simulated casualty from a C-17 to an ambulance as a part of Global Medic 2008.**



Photo by Pfc. Darryl Montgomery

**A team from the 909th Forward Surgical Team carries a patient to a Huey to be evacuated to the 256th Combat Support Hospital during Global Medic 2008, Fort Gordon, Ga.**